

APRIL 13, 1822.

Read twice, and committed to the committee of the whole House to which is committed the *bill for the relief of Clement B. Penrose.*

A BILL

Confirming claims to Lots in the town of Mobile, and to Land in the former Province of West Florida, which claims have been reported favorably on by the Commissioners appointed by the United States.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives*
2 *of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That*
3 all the claims to lots in the town of Mobile, founded on com-
4 plete grants derived from either the French, British, or Span-
5 ish authorities, reported to the Secretary of the Treasury by
6 the commissioner for the district east of Pearl river, appointed
7 under the authority of "An act for ascertaining the titles and
8 claims to land in that part of Louisiana which lies east of the
9 island of New Orleans," or which were so reported by the re-
10 gister and receiver, acting as commissioners, under the act of
11 the third of March, one thousand eight hundred and nineteen,
12 entitled "An act for adjusting claims to land, and establishing
13 land offices, in the districts east of the island of New Orleans,"
14 which are contained in the reports of the commissioner, or

15 of the register and receiver, acting as commissioners, and
 16 which are, in their opinion, valid, agreeably to the laws, usages,
 17 and customs, of the said governments, be, and the same are
 18 hereby, recognized as valid.

1 **SEC. 2.** *And be it further enacted,* That all the claims to
 2 lots in the town aforesaid, reported as aforesaid, and contain-
 3 ed in the reports of the commissioner, or of the register and
 4 receiver, acting as commissioners, founded on orders of sur-
 5 vey, requettes, permissions to settle, or other written evidences
 6 of claims, derived from either the French, British, or Spanish
 7 authorities, and bearing date prior to the twentieth of Decem-
 8 ber, one thousand eight hundred and three, and which ought,
 9 in the opinion of the commissioner, to be confirmed, shall be
 10 confirmed, in the same manner as if the title had been com-
 11 pleted.

1 **SEC. 3.** *And be it further enacted,* That all the claims to
 2 lots in the town aforesaid, reported as aforesaid, and contained
 3 in the reports of the commissioner, or of the register and re-
 4 ceiver, acting as commissioners, founded on private convey-
 5 ances which have passed through the office of the commandant,
 6 or other evidence, but founded, as the claimants allege, on
 7 grants lost by time and accident, and which ought, in the
 8 opinion of the commissioner, to be confirmed, shall be confirm-
 9 ed, in the same manner as if the titles were in existence:

10 *Provided*, That, in all such claims where the quantity claimed
11 is not ascertained, no one claim shall be confirmed for a quan-
12 tity exceeding seven thousand two hundred square feet.

1 SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted*, That, for all the other
2 claims to lots in the town aforesaid, reported as aforesaid,
3 which are contained in the report of the register and receiver,
4 and which, by the said report, appear to have been built upon,
5 or improved and occupied, on or before the fifteenth day of
6 April, one thousand eight hundred and thirteen, the claimants
7 shall be entitled to grants therefor as donations: *Provided*,
8 That, in all such claims, where the quantity claimed is not
9 ascertained, no one claim shall be confirmed for a quantity
10 exceeding seven thousand two hundred square feet: *And pro-*
11 *vided, also*, That all the confirmations and grants provided
12 to be made by this act, shall amount only to a relinquishment
13 forever, on the part of the United States, of all right and title
14 whatever, to the lots of land so confirmed or granted.

1 SEC. 5. *And be it further enacted*, That all the claims to
2 land, reported as aforesaid, by the commissioners for the dis-
3 tricts east and west of Pearl river, and by the registers and
4 receivers, respectively, of the land offices at St. Helena Court
5 House, and at Jackson Court House, in the districts east and
6 west of Pearl river, which are contained in the several reports
7 of the said commissioners and registers and receivers, and

8 which, by the said reports, appear to have been legally derived
9 from the French authorities, during the existence of the
10 French government in Louisiana, and the land claimed to have
11 been inhabited and cultivated by the claimant, on or before
12 the fifteenth day of April, one thousand eight hundred and
13 thirteen, shall be confirmed, and the same are hereby confirm-
14 ed, against any claim on the part of the United States, or
15 right derived from the United States.

1 **SEC. 6.** *And be it further enacted,* That the registers and
2 receivers of the land offices at St. Helena Court House, and
3 at Jackson Court House, respectively, shall have the same
4 powers to direct the manner in which all lands confirmed by
5 this act, shall be located and surveyed; and, also, to decide be-
6 tween the parties in all conflicting and interfering claims, as
7 are given by the act, entitled "An act supplementary to the
8 several acts for adjusting the claims to land, and establishing
9 land offices, in the districts east of the island of New Orleans."